

Research Society on Alcoholism is a professional research society whose members conduct basic, clinical, and psychosocial research on alcoholism and alcohol abuse.

Alcoholism is a tragedy that touches all Americans. One in ten Americans will suffer from alcoholism or alcohol abuse. It's cost to the nation is nearly \$100 billion annually. Research holds the promise of developing effective methods for the prevention and treatment of this far reaching disease.

The Medical Research Amendment is an answer to the problem of desperately needed research funds. An investment of this type will create the ability for the National Institutes of Health to fund grant applications that will lead to advancements in all areas of health research. At this time of unprecedented opportunities in alcohol research, this amendment provides much needed assistance.

Thank you for your support of the research community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

IVAN DIAMOND, Ph.D.,
President.

COLLEGE ON PROBLEMS OF
DRUG DEPENDENCE, INC.,
Richmond, VA, June 24, 1997.

Hon. TOM HARKIN,
Hon. ALFONSE D'AMATO,
Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
Hon. CONNIE MACK,
Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
Hon. JOHN ROCKEFELLER,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: The College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) is the leading scientific society in the field of drug abuse. On behalf of our nationwide membership I am writing to lend our support to the Medical Research Amendment. Our commitment to research advances and their positive implication for the future is strengthened by this amendment and its commitment to the research community.

An estimated 30 million Americans suffer from drug and alcohol addiction. Alarmingly, of the 59 million women of child bearing age, nearly 5 million are using illicit drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, and heroin. Economically, drug and alcohol abuse cost this country more than \$1600 billion annually. Research is the answer to understanding this complex and devastating problem.

The Medical Research Amendment is the answer to a long standing problem facing the United States, the undervalued commodity of research. Research can provide us with the elusive answers to questions of addiction, drug abuse, and treatment. This amendment is an investment in the future of America and not just the National Institutes of Health.

Thank you for your support of research and its advances. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. BALSTER, Ph.D.,
Public Policy Officer.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS &
SURGEONS OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
New York, NY, June 25, 1997.

Hon. ALFONSE D'AMATO,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. TOM HARKIN,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS AL AND TOM: On behalf of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, I wish to express our support

for the amendment offered by Senators D'Amato, Harkin, Specter, and Mack to provide additional funds over appropriated amounts for the National Institutes of Health that is being offered to the Budget Reconciliation Bill.

Current amounts for NIH are truly insufficient to fulfill the objectives of NIH and the promise of biomedical research. We have the opportunity to find the genetic basis of disease and cures for illnesses such as Parkinson's, cancer, diabetes, and others that afflict millions of Americans. The contributions potentially offered by this amendment will save millions of lives and billions of dollars.

Support for biomedical research is one of the most important investments Congress can make in the health and welfare of our citizens. All of us in academic medicine thank you for your leadership and vision.

Sincerely,

HERBERT PARDES, M.D.,
Vice President for Health Sciences,
and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

THE NATIONAL COALITION
FOR CANCER RESEARCH,
Washington, DC, June 25, 1997.

Hon. TOM HARKIN,
Hon. ALFONSE D'AMATO,
Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
Hon. CONNIE MACK,
Hon. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER,
Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: The 55,000 cancer researchers, nurses, physicians, and health care workers, tens of thousands of cancer survivors and their families; 40,000 children with cancer and their families, 82 cancer hospitals and cancer centers across the country, and more than 2 million volunteers who make up the National Coalition for Cancer Research commend your medical research amendment to the fiscal year 1998 Senate Reconciliation Bill.

It is the Coalition's central conviction that the solution to the complex problems surrounding cancer—the reduction in morbidity, mortality, and the high costs of medical care—will come in a stepwise manner from the generation of new knowledge through research. Additional federal support for cancer research as provided by your Health Research Fund will abet the human and financial costs of cancer.

We must remember that despite the declining death rates of the past few years, in the United States, men have a 1 in 2 lifetime risk of developing cancer, and women have a 1 in 3 risk. Cancer is still the second leading cause of death and is expected to be the leading cause of death by the turn of the century. The direct costs of health care services to cancer patients is currently estimated at more than \$104 billion annually and is increasing each year. The generation of new knowledge through research into the molecular events involved in the cause and progression of cancer should lead to increasingly effective means of protection and treatment, the only means to stop the spread of disease, and curtail these costs.

The Coalition recognizes that the Congress is pressed with securing savings in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and applauds your attention to the need to invest in biomedical research to stop the spread of diseases which cause long term care costs. The Coalition commends your amendment which secures additional resources for biomedical research because, without doubt, research is the gateway to progress against cancer.

Thank you for seizing this opportunity now to do something of utmost importance for our country.

Sincerely,

ALBERT H. OWENS, Jr.,
President.

NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY,
New York, NY, June 25, 1997.

Hon. TOM HARKIN,
Hon. ALFONSE D'AMATO,
Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
Hon. CONNIE MACK,
Hon. THOMAS DASCHLE,
Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
Hon. JOHN ROCKEFELLER.

DEAR SENATORS: One in every 800 children is born with Down Syndrome and there are over 350,000 people with this condition in the U.S. today. It is the most commonly occurring chromosomal abnormality, resulting when an individual possesses three, rather than usual two, copies of the 21st chromosome.

Medical research supported by the National Institutes of Health is our only hope in developing better therapeutics to treat those individuals who have Down syndrome and to help us better understand the causes of this disease so we can one day prevent it from occurring. The National Down Syndrome Society has just entered a historic public-private research initiative with the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development to examine behavior and cognitive development of individuals with Down syndrome. This project is an important first step in increasing our understanding of this disease.

Thank you for your efforts and commitment to ensuring the longterm viability of our medical research infrastructure. We support your efforts to establish a National Fund for Health Research to ensure the NIH has the resources necessary to continue to advance medical science in the United States.

Sincerely,

MYRA E. MADNICK,
Executive Director.

ALLIANCE FOR AGING RESEARCH,
Washington, DC, June 25, 1997.

Hon. TOM HARKIN,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HARKIN: The Alliance for Aging Research, an independent not-for-profit organization working to improve the health and independence of older Americans, applauds and strongly supports an amendment to establish a National Fund for Health Research. We understand this fund would be established in the Treasury to expand support for medical research through the National Institutes of Health.

As you know, the Alliance has consistently made the case that the most effective means to achieve savings in Medicare and Medicaid is by improving the health status of older Americans. The most effective long-term strategy is to advance biomedical research and to apply what we learn to improved geriatric health management and prevention of chronic disease. Studies released this year from Duke University show a steady decline in chronic disability since the 1980s among this nation's older population, saving Medicare billions of dollars.

In a special report presented by the Alliance to the White House Conference on Aging, we stated that by postponing physical dependency for older Americans by just one month would save the nation \$5 billion a year in health care and nursing home costs. Postponing the onset of Alzheimer's Disease by just five years would, in time, save \$50 billion a year in health care costs. And a